

Letter from Alexander Graham Bell to N. C. Kingsbury, February 2, 1912

Copy Feb 2 1912 Mr. N. C. Kingsbury, American Telephone & Telegraph Company, 15 Dey Street, New York. Dear Sir,

Many thanks for your note of Jan 29 enclosing for my use a book of coupon franks of The American Telephone and Telegraph Company, for the year 1912, issued to me as "Director"

In former years I was always shown this courtesy by your Company in recognition of my position as the inventor of the telephone; but I understand that on account of some change in the law it is only possible for you now to issue franks to persons who are officials of the Company.

I was very much touched by the action of President Vail and the Board of Directors in electing me a Director of the American Bell Telephone Company but found myself unable to accept. I am not, therefore, now qualified to receive franking privileges as "Director."

If I cannot lawfully be given the franks on the grounds that I am the inventor of the telephone, I would rather not have them at all. I therefore return them to you with many thanks for your kind intentions in the matter.

Yours sincerely,